

PUEBLO OF LAGUNA

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LAGUNA, NEW MEXICO 87028

Office of:

The Governor

The Secretary

The Treasurer

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July 26, 1983

Hand-Delivered

Sidney Mills
Office of Trust Responsibility
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Department of Interior
19th and L Streets
Washington, D.C.

Confidential Claim Retracted

Authorized by: SE

Date: 6/25/13

Dear Mr. Mills:

As you are aware, the Anaconda Company, after many years of operating an open pit uranium mine on Pueblo of Laguna lands, ceased such activity in March of 1981. It was determined that the reclamation of the mine required the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 since such action was deemed to be a "major federal action" significantly affecting the environment. In April 1981, a Memorandum of Understanding was entered into between the U.S.G.S. (a function recently assumed by the Bureau of Land Management) and the BIA establishing the basis for the preparation of the EIS by the two agencies. The preliminary draft EIS is presently 85% complete and should be issued before the end of this calendar year.

Meanwhile, the Anaconda Company has prepared and presented to the federal agencies involved its reclamation plan for the Jackpile-Paguate mine. This effort, utilizing some of the world's pre-eminent consultants, is estimated to cost Anaconda \$4 million. It is estimated that the EIS process has cost the government \$600,000 to date for this very important and historic project.

Recent meetings between Laguna and the responsible federal agencies has revealed a significant lack of expertise in numerous areas required to complete the EIS in such a manner as to address the various components of the reclamation effort satisfactorily. It is imperative that a minimal amount of funding be made available immediately to enable the EIS process to address these critical reclamation tasks. Failure to respond to the Anaconda plan in a comprehensive and responsible manner could result in a reclamation effort which is woefully inadequate to mitigate the health and safety hazards at the mine site. Inadequate reclamation would place the burden on the federal government to continue to respond, for endless years, to the mitigation of these hazards. It would better serve the public at large to assure that the reclamation effort is done properly in the first instance.

Laguna requests, therefore, that the BIA make the funding available according to Attachment "A" hereto so that necessary studies can be performed which will, hopefully, lead the EIS task force to a responsible conclusion as to the

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reclamation which must be performed. This request is based upon a meeting between the Pueblo, BIA, and BLM representatives held in Albuquerque on July 18. Although it may not represent a final list of expert needs, it does alert you to our immediate needs.

It is the BLM's stated intention to issue a formal request for this funding for expert needs from its New Mexico State Office to the Area Director immediately. In the meantime, please consider this an informal request intended to alert you to this critical problem so that your office may prepare to respond.

Sincerely yours,

PUEBLO OF LAGUNA

Edwin M. Martinez
Governor

EMM:cm
Attachment

Draft

JACKPILE - PAGUATE DEIS
ADDITIONAL NEEDS & ESTIMATED COSTS

1. Existing Radiological Environment and Impacts

Radiological Health Physist/Technical Writer to review Argonne, WRD, and EG&G reports, synthesize data, and estimate impacts.

Source: EPA or outside contract
Time: 2+ months Cost: \$4 - 6,000

2. Blasting Damage

Specialist (Mining/Civil Engineer) to review data and write report

Source: Richard Dick, Bureau of Mines, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Time: 2 weeks Cost: \$1,000 (travel and per diem)

3. Cost Analysis of the Five Alternatives

Source: a) BLM Staff w/option of using a reemployed annuitant

b) BIA: Dick Cramer - Borneman, Denver Service Center - minerals
Time: 1+ month Cost: Using BIA person (travel and per diem) \$800

4. WRD Review of Anaconda's (Dames and Moore) Hydrologic Report

Time: ? Cost: \$2,000 (transfer of funds)

5. Editing and Preparing Camera - Ready Copy

Source: Argonne National Laboratory
Time: ? Cost: \$5,000

6. Printing DEIS

Source: BLM (Contract w/GSA)
Time: ? Cost: \$5,000

Minimum time need: 2+ months Cost: \$20,000 ±

40,000

Draft

In addition to the preceeding needs, the following reports are needed to complete the DEIS (no additional costs).

1. CERT's Socio-Economic Report
2. WRD's Final Qualitative Groundwater Report
3. Anaconda's justification for selecting 70% vegetation comparability
4. Argonne labs revised table 3.5 and a computer printout of all data